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HOUSE MEMORIAL 75

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Eliseo Lee Alcon

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE INDIAN EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ACCESS TO  
PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE RAMAH AREA OF NEW MEXICO AND THE  
POSSIBLE NEED FOR A NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, the Ramah area of New Mexico encompasses the  
southeast corner of McKinley county and portions of Cibola  
county and is contained within two public school districts, the  
Gallup-McKinley county school district and the Grants-Cibola  
county school district; and

WHEREAS, the nearest public schools for students in the  
Ramah area are located in McKinley county, but the majority of  
students live in Cibola county; and

WHEREAS, four-fifths of the Navajo school-age population  
in the area attend federally funded, Navajo Nation-sanctioned

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1 schools known as the Pine Hill schools operated by the Ramah  
2 Navajo school board, incorporated, a Navajo Nation school  
3 board, with dual status as a privately incorporated nonprofit  
4 educational and charitable entity under the laws of New Mexico;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the combined Indian and non-Indian school-age  
7 population in the area totals well over five hundred students;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, there may be ways in which federal money could  
10 continue to be used to support Navajo students within a public  
11 school district created for the area; and

12 WHEREAS, the Indian education division of the public  
13 education department has access to funds for the completion of  
14 a study on the public education situation in the area;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Indian  
17 education division of the public education department be  
18 requested to convene a task force no later than July 1, 2009 to  
19 study access to public education in the Ramah area and the  
20 possible need for and feasibility of establishing a new school  
21 district in the area; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of  
23 three representatives appointed by the Indian education  
24 division of the public education department, two  
25 representatives appointed by the governing body of Ramah

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1 village, two representatives appointed by the Gallup-McKinley  
2 county school board, two representatives appointed by the  
3 Grants-Cibola county school board and two representatives  
4 appointed by the Ramah Navajo school board, incorporated; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its  
6 findings to the appropriate interim legislative committees and  
7 to the governor no later than December 1, 2009; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to the assistant secretary for Indian education,  
10 the governing body of Ramah village, the Gallup-McKinley county  
11 school board, the Grants-Cibola county school board and the  
12 Ramah Navajo school board, incorporated.

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